

A year ago our nation was in the midst of financial turmoil- our banks were failing, our housing market was crashing, and Americans were losing jobs at a rapid pace. While our economy has not yet fully recovered, Congress has taken significant strides over the past year to revive our economy. Since January, we have stabilized the financial system; revived lending to small businesses; reduced home foreclosures; cut taxes for the middle class; extended unemployment insurance; and created and saved more than a million jobs.

Even as our economy is growing again, we are still faced with one of the more difficult economic challenges of our time; high rates of unemployment. Yet while unemployment numbers are still too high, the continued decline of job losses has been a promising sign. Congress is now working to build on the progress our economy has made over the past year to continue to spur job growth.

On December 8, 2009, the President outlined a frame of action to produce the greatest number of jobs while generating the greatest value for our economy. His top priorities include: helping small businesses grow and hire new staff; additional investments in our roads, bridges, and infrastructure to create shovel-ready jobs; and increased investments in clean energy to spawn more green-jobs.

Rest assured that in the coming weeks it will be my top priority to ensure that Congress uses the President's frame work to produce the most viable, comprehensive jobs recovery package to bring immediate relief to the unemployed in New Jersey. Please [click here](#) for more information on the President's plan and continue to visit my website for the latest information on economic recovery.